

Gracious God, you have called peoples of different times and different nations to you. Bless all people and draw all nations to you that all may see your salvation and life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

In this lesson, we look to counter Luther's antisemitic thoughts on the Jews.

Part 1 How We Understand Jews

Read Romans 9:1-18

1. What words does Paul write about the Jews in verses 4-5?

2a. What is Paul trying to say by describing the Israelites/Jews in this way?

b. When Paul writes in verse 6, "It is not as though the Word of God has failed. What does he mean?"

Read Romans 9:19-10:4

3a. Paul uses the image of a potter and clay to talk more about the Jews and Christians. What does he say in verse 21 about the potter's use of the clay?

b. He explains that image in the next few verses explaining that there is a special use for the Jews in welcoming the gentiles into the fold. What does he say?

Read Romans 10:5-21

4a. Can Jews be saved? What does Paul say in verses 12-13?

- b. Paul rhetorically asks “How can they call on one in whom they have not believed and how can they believe in one in whom they have not heard?” Have they heard? What does Paul say in verses 18-20?

Read Romans 11:1-10

5. Paul is going to answer the question about whether because they have heard the message about Jesus and have not responded . . . does God reject them. His answer is no, but what does he say in verses 5-6?

Read Romans 11:11-36

6. In verse 21 what does Paul mean when he writes, “if God did not spare the natural branches perhaps he will not spare you?”
7. In verses 28-29, when Paul writes about the Jews being enemies but also beloved, what is he saying? Are they really enemies as we think of them?

Part 2 What Does This Have to Do With My Life?

8. Think of other faith groups that we struggle with their salvation. Given how Paul has handled the Jews, how might we speak of other groups?